

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /110 W

----- 066721

R 300847Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4900

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR JA CH

SUBJ: CIVAIR - JAPAN AND PRC OPEN SCHEDULED AIR SERVICES

REF: TOKYO 11377

SUMMARY. AIR SERVICES WERE OPENED BY JAPAN AND PRC WITH SPECIAL FLIGHTS OPERATED BY JAPAN AIRLINES (JAL) AND CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OF CHINA (CAAC) ON SEPT. 29. FLIGHT COMMEMORATED SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED, JAPAN AND PRC OPENED COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICES BETWEEN TOKYO AND PEKING WITH SPECIAL FLIGHTS OPERATED BY JAL AND CAAC ON SEPT. 29. REGULAR SCHEDULED SERVICES WILL COMMENCE ON OCTOBER 6. EACH CARRIER WILL OPERATE TWO ROUND TRIPS WEEKLY (JAL ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS AND CAAC ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS). OSAKA AND SHANGHAI WILL BE SERVED AS INTERMEDIATE POINTS BY BOTH
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CARRIERS.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT. OPERATION OF THE TOKYO-PEKING SERVICE WILL BE EXPENSIVE FOR JAL AND PRESUMABLY ALSO FOR CAAC. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, JAL EXPECTS TO LOSE UP TO ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF OPERATION. TRAVEL BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA IS NOT LARGE AND TRAVEL INDUSTRY SOURCES DO NOT EXPECT ANY MATERIAL INCREASE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. (IN 1973 ABOUT 10,000 JAPANESE VISITED CHINA BUT THIS WAS AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER ATTRIBUTED MOSTLY TO ATTENDANCE AT THE KWANGTUNG TRADE FAIR.) JAL APPARENTLY HOPES THAT ITS RIGHT TO SERVE CHINA ULTIMATELY WILL PROVE PROFITABLE -- OR AT LEAST LESS UNPROFITABLE THAN AT THE OUTSET -- ONCE GOJ NEGOTIATES QTE BEYOND RIGHTS UNQTE TO EUROPE. HODGSON

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